biding the time when we shall claim It from Her and choose to fulfill the Immaculate Concept of our Godhood—the perfect Christ Being, made, not only in the Image and Likeness of the Father, but of our Beloved Cosmic Mother as well.

The Mother Expression of the Godhead, as manifest through the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Comforter, has had very little recognition as such in the orthodox world, but the Truth of the whole matter is that the women of the western world and so-called Christian nations owe their greater freedom of expression and place in society to the teachings and example of the Beloved Master Jesus who, on every occasion possible, raised and reverenced the feminine form and nature. So, on this anniversary of the Pentecost, which we celebrate as *Whitsuntide,* let us turn our attention to that Beloved Holy Comforter and ask that His gentle expression of the Motherhood of Diety enfold all the mothers of all the peoples on our planet Earth today.

Mothers' Day—May 10, 1959

Whitsunday—May 17, 1959

REMEMBER MOTHER ON HER DAY!

* * * * *

Beloved Heavenly Father—I LOVE YOU! Forgive all my transgressions—known or unknown! Help me NOW to forgive all those who have seemingly transgressed against me. Having created me and ALL Earth's children, I know that You have a beautiful Design for me and for them. Knowing that You *are* a God of Mercy and Love, I ask You to help me to overcome any sense of unbelief in the Goodness of Your Dear Self and Your Creation. Make of me, Beloved Father, an instrument through which You may manifest to the people of Earth the *reality* of Your Goodness. This, I humbly and reverently ask in Beloved Jesus' Holy Name. AMEN.

HOPE

HEALTH OPULENCE PEACE ENLIGHTENMENT

VOLUME 5 APRIL-MAY, 1959 NUMBER 1

GOD'S WILL

I once saw a bush, all brilliant with dew,
And bursting with blossoms, as some bushes do;
It stood there serene in its green and its white—
Successful in being a heavenly sight.
Not asking a thing—just grateful to live—
Devoted completely to what it could give;
Exquisite in beauty, exceeding in grace;
How peaceful and perfect it fitted its place!
Midst the friend and the foe, it seemed only to know
But to live and to give and continue to grow.
The longer I looked, the more I thought,
For I could see now—the miracle wrought.
It lived and expanded the light in its heart,
Not ever once trying to be some other part;
It followed His Plan, His Purpose, His Will;
It made me think how *my* plan I could fulfill
That sweet, harmless bush understands concentration,
And lovingly obeys the plan of creation;
While man, with God's Love and God's Flame in his heart—
Tries to live for himself and be something apart.
Not my Will be done, O Father above—
But Thine, as the bush—forever—in Love!

V. F. STILLMORE

Also in this issue: The Will of God; The Holy Bible—its Teachings and Symbols; The Ascension of Jesus; One God—One Truth; Poem—I Love the Things Eternal; Our Gentle Master; An Understanding Heart.

A BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE EXPANSION OF SPIRITUAL ETHICS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL PEOPLES

BRIDGE TO FREEDOM, INC.
P. O. BOX 5
FLOURTOWN, PA.

THE WILL OF GOD

The WILL OF GOD is *GOOD!* The WILL OF GOD is for a free people. The WILL OF GOD is that the axis of the Earth shall be straightened—that the extremes of climate shall be mercifully blended together into a habitable and happy balance.

The WILL OF GOD is that every man, from within himself, shall draw forth the substance and supply which is the need and requirement of his everyday existence.

The WILL OF GOD is that disease, death, poverty, limitation, and unbalance of mind and body shall be no more; that impurity, viciousness and unkindness shall die; that elemental light shall again shine; that the Earth itself shall take on the hues of iridescent beauty which it had when first it was created from the Heart of God.

The WILL OF GOD is that there shall be no veil between man and God, and that Angels, Devas, and all God-free Beings shall walk and talk as freely with the evolutions of the Earth as men now talk with one another.

This is the WILL OF GOD—the lame to be made whole; the diseased to become filled with ease and balance—each one entering into the deep recesses of his heart—facing his own Supreme Divinity—seeing It face to face and becoming so enamored of Its Light that the externalized form he wears becomes the magnificent perfection preordained and destined for each lifestream.

It is time that the WILL OF GOD be impressed with such strength and power into the consciousness of mankind that there can no longer be any lingering in the shadows nor acceptance of limitation as part of this great Universal First Cause.

There are many people who, when beset by distressing appearances, are prone to accept those appearances as 'God's Will for them.' God, being a good, gentle and Loving Father, *never* intended anything but happiness and all its attendant qualities to be externalized for each blessed child who He created to help expand the borders of His Kingdom.

To disabuse our minds of the idea that the unpleasant experiences of life are God's Will for us and our loved ones is a beginning toward overcoming those very distresses and allowing the GOODNESS OF

GOD to fill our worlds, that of those we love, and finally the entire Earth upon which we presently dwell. Acceptance of the Truth that we, ourselves, created these temporary imperfections is the second step on the spiritual pathway Home.

Next, through the prayer which the Ascended Master Jesus gave so often during His Ministry on Earth: "Father forgive (me) or (them) for they know not what (they) or (I) have done!" we can set into motion the Mercy of the Spiritual Law under which we all live. This forgiveness of our own (or others) transgressions of the Law of Love is a gift from God to His children. Let it also be remembered that, in the Lord's Prayer itself, Jesus said: "Forgive us *our* trespasses, *as* we forgive *others!*" This is a very important point in setting our own worlds into Divine Order. Almost everyone desires to be forgiven, but how many are willing, desirous, or eager to forgive the trespasses of others? Yet it must be definitely understood that such forgiveness of another's wrongs is essential to our own forgiveness. Did not the Great Master, Jesus, say those very words Himself? All of Jesus' statements *affirmed* the goodness of His (and our) Heavenly Father. "Eyes have not seen, nor ears have not heard the Glory which the Father has prepared for those who *love* Him." There are a great number of Divine Beings, referred to in the Bible as the 'Heavenly Host,' Who can, and will, assist us in accepting the WILL OF GOD as GOOD!

Perhaps many of our readers cannot accept the eternal verity of 're-embodiment' that, in former lives, causes were set up that may manifest in this present life as distress. We recommend to each such an one that he or she literally put this part of the Law of Life 'on the shelf' until such acceptance comes easily and readily.

Meanwhile, wiser Beings, knowing this Truth of Karma, will help each reader to use the Law of Mercy and Forgiveness to remove the old cores of distress that have externalized in this lifetime as ill-health, limitation, or imperfections of any kind which bring worry and concern to many of us. We might also mention that, right here on our Earth, there are individuals who have accepted this Truth of re-embodiment and are using their own energies to assist in removing the cores of distress from all mankind, the elemental kingdom, and the nature kingdom as well.

Deformity at birth or during early life is often a result of the misuse of life in past embodiments. A prodigy who is born with magnificent talents is also an indication that the right use of God's energy was made in past embodiments and caused those particular talents to be built into the consciousness.

The Mercy of God is infinite in providing those Divine Beings which help us to know and feel the GOODNESS of His Holy Will,

and also in the providing of others right here on Earth to serve for us until we have reached that point in spiritual development where we are able to serve for ourselves.

It is in the attitude of individuals (particularly their feelings) as to whether either Divine or human beings are able to help them. All men, women, and children have free will. If they reject the Truth that the WILL OF GOD is *GOOD,* and indulge in self-pity or condemnation of God and His Messengers, they build an unseen, but very palpable, shell around themselves which deflects the blessings which can be theirs. The Master Jesus always prefaced His healings with the question: "Do you believe that this can be done?" Those who accepted, in their feelings, the fact that the healing could be performed, had instantaneous relief. Those who scoffed at His Service were not so released from distress. Jesus Himself said: "Not all that came to me for help *could* be helped (at that time) because of disbelief."

One wise man, knowing and accepting the reality of God's Power, through Jesus, to heal, said: "Lord, help Thou my unbelief!" If there is unbelief in any of us, and we are honest enough to admit it, we, too, can say: "Lord, help Thou my unbelief!" and we shall be given the assistance required.

Why is the world at large in such a state of chaos today? Because the majority of the people do not accept in their *feelings* that the Will of God is *GOOD.* Wars, famines, pestilence—all resulting from man's own creation, are wrongly classified as the Will of God, and the people lethargically accept these distressing appearances or await a 'vicarious atonement' through the Beloved Jesus. It is up to each individual to spread the 'glad tidings of great joy' that, despite temporary chaos and distress, the very Kingdom of Heaven, which Jesus affirmed is within *ALL* men, is in the process of being established here upon the Earth. Through whom? Through each individual who can *accept* that the Will of God is *GOOD.* As the *entire* population of the Earth represents the actual Body of God Himself, when more and more people are literally impregnated with this fundamental Truth, then It will radiate forth from them for the blessing of themselves, their loved ones, and the very Earth itself.

The Great Divine Being who represents the Will of the Heavenly Father to the mankind of Earth is known by the name of El Morya. He, too, lived on Earth many times, and finally, by accepting the GOODNESS and MERCY of God, *ascended,* as Jesus did before Him, and now serves to impress upon the minds and hearts of receptive men and women everywhere the *Truth* that the WILL OF GOD is *GOOD!* There are many in the orthodox channels who sometimes do not care to share their 'private Heaven' with anyone but the Beloved Master Jesus. Yet, the Beloved El Morya can be of great assistance to those who desire to know and expand this facet of Truth in regard to God's Will. Those who cannot, as yet, accept His Presence, will not be denied His assistance because He is a living, breathing Individual Whose Service is to make the distressed mankind of Earth cognizant of the beautiful world which the Heavenly Father has prepared for them —each and every one.

I LOVE THE THINGS ETERNAL

I love all the eternal things,
Like sunrise brightening the morn;
'Tis then the lark, while soaring, sings
That yet another day is born.
Laid on the petal of a rose,
A dew-drop, glistening, awaits
The tender rays that will dispose
Of it and all its sparkling mates.

Sometimes across the heavens clear,
As guided by an unseen hand,
A dark'ning cloud will oft appear,
And gentle rains refresh the land.
I hear the thunder echo far;
I see the lightning streak the sky,
There's nothing can these wonders mar
As God, in majesty, rides by.

When sunset rays at last release
The care of Earth to night's fair queen,
The wonders of God's hand increase
As worlds no eye hath ever seen
Assist our own bright satellite
As through the heav'ns she plies her course—
Transcendent glory of the night;
To lovers e'er a potent force.

I love all these eternal things;
'Tis nature in resplendent mood;
And the Creative Force that brings
Us these, so sends to us our food
To feed the body and the soul,
To help us grow in mind and might.
God help us reach that Shining Goal—
So strong and perfect in Thy sight!

K. ARTHUR KNIGHT

AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

by Charity Masters

The Great Teachers of mankind have told us that we shall not manifest a true world brotherhood until an *UNDERSTANDING HEART* is developed within the outer consciousness of the mankind privileged to be embodied upon the Earth today.

Have you ever contemplated just what an Understanding Heart really means? Are YOU an Understanding Heart? How many of your friends and associates are an Understanding Heart? When an individual learns to look for and understand the MOTIVE behind all action, each situation will be treated with a great deal more wisdom, for *Understanding* does bring Tolerance, and impersonal Divine Love and Good-will naturally flow from these. Many times you will hear people say: "Oh, if I had only understood; I would have acted much differently!"

The minds of mankind in the various countries are so SET in the particular line of thought that has been taught there for centuries that they accept the local customs and conventions that say certain things are either RIGHT or WRONG. Yet, many things considered wrong in centuries past are accepted today, and conversely, many things accepted as right in the past are thought wrong today. The Code of Conduct for people often changes with the customs of their countries, so that we can begin to see the truth in the statement that "Nothing is right or wrong—but THINKING makes it so!"

Many individuals have gone through great suffering for trying to go contrary to 'public opinion' and break away from the set ideas, only to find, many times, that these 'opinions' changed shortly afterwards. Tolerance and a willingness to give other lifestreams Freedom are necessary before the peoples of the Earth are ready to live side by side in Peace. It has been pointed out before that many people say: "I WANT PEACE!" but it can never manifest permanently on this Earth until each man, woman and child can truthfully say: "I GIVE PEACE forth in my thoughts, feelings, words and acts!" The same is true of Understanding. This brings the Tolerance so needed to supercede fear, superstition and bigotry. The world today is in great need of Understanding.

In your individual world, which kind of people do you prefer to have around you—those who tell you frankly about your faults and your mistakes, or those who are willing to listen to your side of the story, and even though you might have made a mistake, they minimize it and understand your reasons for making it? It is very comforting to have at least one person with whom you can speak freely, and who will understand your point of view.

An Understanding Heart knows that God's Will for all is GOOD; and that the present appearances of distress and disturbance, whether in an individual or in the nations of the world, are merely the recoil, or effect, of imperfect causes sent forth at some former time and which will be changed when Understanding is attained and the lessons learned.

Hatred is one of the qualities which is bred of intolerance and bigotry, while Good-will and that impersonal Divine Love manifest from an Understanding Heart. There are certain Divine Beings whose service it is to assist mankind in the development of an Understanding Heart. These Beings all have the same understanding as Jesus, and are now working with Him in the great service of bringing Freedom and Peace to our Earth. If you remember, Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer: "THY Kingdom come; THY Will be done on Earth as it is done in Heaven!" This means that if God's Kingdom IS to be manifest on the Earth, His Will, His Tolerance, His Wisdom and Understanding, and His Great Love—GOOD—must manifest through every part of life. Then, and then only, when joy, happiness, beauty, freedom and peace manifest here permanently, will the Earth truly become like the Kingdom of Heaven.

As well as the Beloved Jesus, the Masters El Morya and Kuthumi are all working together to assist mankind. These Great Beings have a great deal to do with Illumination, Wisdom, and an Understanding Heart, and if you will make the call to Them for assistance in becoming more tolerant, kinder, and more able to understand, and thus work more intelligently with your fellowman, you will find those qualities increasing in your world. Then try to find out just WHY you feel the way you do about certain things. Review your own life and the teachings you have had, and then try to do this for someone whom you know thinks differently to you. Then expand this to groups of individuals and whole nations, and you will be amazed when you realize how many of the tensions in your own world have LET GO!

The Beloved Master Kuthumi has said: "When you come with greater Light and greater understanding, you must have a COMMON GROUND of meeting with that consciousness!" What common ground would you have in talking to a Buddhist, for instance, or a Mohammedan, or any other faith or creed? What better common ground of understanding could we manifest than not being so quick to judge another; to be kinder to those with whom we associate and to really live by the Golden Rule and do unto others that which we would like them to do unto us.

THE HOLY BIBLE — ITS TEACHINGS AND SYMBOLS

by Chas. C. Smith, F.R.C.

"And ye shall know the Truth; and the Truth shall make you free!"
John 8:32

In writing a series of articles on the Holy Bible, it is rather difficult to know just where to begin, but since most of the philosophy of the Bible has been built into the Christian church, the teachings of Jesus will, perhaps, form the best basis upon which to formulate a study of this nature.

Another problem which arises is the method of presentation in order to assure our readers that, in pointing out *plain* statements in the Bible, we are not casting any reflections upon any particular religious group that might see things differently; but since there are, perhaps, several hundred sects that call themselves Christian, and since no two of them agree on all points of doctrine, it becomes very evident that it would be impossible to quote the Bible to any great extent without disagreeing with some one denomination.

The studies which we are publishing in this series are neither denominational nor sectarian in any sense of the word; nor is there any theology involved. These lessons will, however, call to your attention a number of Scripture passages that are generally overlooked, and will, of necessity, point out errors that have been incorporated into the teachings of many denominations; and the reason for these mistakes will also be given.

The great prophet, Isaiah, looking forward from his time, said: "Behold, the darkness shall cover the Earth and gross darkness the people." (Isa. 60:2) From our point in history, we look back to the period referred to and call it 'the dark ages.' Truly gross darkness *did* cover the people. One translation of this passage reads, "black gloom covered the people." It was indeed a period of horror, gloom and ignorance; but this same prophet looked forward to another and later period and had this to say: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (government): for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:9)

A marked change in the world situation is here indicated. As will be pointed out, we are now entering this later period, and for that reason we are able to understand things about God and His plans that were almost totally unknown even a few years ago. Many of our religious ideas still carry with them the horrors and brutality and ignorance of the dark ages. We should thank God that these days are rapidly passing, and that it is now possible to see God as 'our Father';

a God of Love and vision and power that *can* be respected and loved and admired—one whose message to us is indeed: "Good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people!" (Luke 2:10)

It is our purpose to point out to our readers *that message of the new day,* a period into which we have already entered. It is a message that will give all a respect and admiration for God, the Father; a love for Jesus, the Christ; and an understanding of the Comforter that, perhaps, many never had who were raised in the limited understanding that has come down to us from the days of the dark ages.

The Christian Church

One of the first things that must be pointed out is that the *Church* that Jesus founded was a *secret society,* and that there were three degrees and three initiations; and that the qualifications were *so* high that only a few could enter that group. It may also surprise you to learn that the *real* teachings of Jesus, the Christ, were not given to the public then nor have they ever been; that Jesus made no effort to 'save souls' or 'convert sinners.' The teachings of the Christ are still secret, and the only reason that this is so is because the vast majority of the human race, with their present degree of development, are not able to understand those teachings. "The natural man does not entertain the thoughts of the Spirit of God for they are folly to him; and he is *not able* to decide upon them because they are *spiritually investigated."* (I Cor. 2:14 Fenton translation.)

It will be shown that the great work of the church is a *future work* —a 'shall be' blessing for the masses; and it will also be shown that death (so-called) is not the end of opportunity for the human races; but that Jesus taught that the "gates of hell" (Matt. 16:18) should not prevail against the church and its work. (The original word translated 'hell' is the Greek word Hades which means the state of being dead. Fenton translates the word as 'grave'). Death cannot alter, delay, or stop the pre-ordained work of the 'Christian Church.' You will learn that the expression 'Christian Church' has no reference to *any* church denomination, but when expanded into its full meaning, has a much wider and more wonderful import than the 'natural man' has ever dreamed.

There are a number of Bible references that can be cited to show the secret nature of the early church teachings. Some of these have already been pointed out in previous articles in this journal, but will now be examined in detail.

Unto you is given to know the mysteries

One of the plainest of these is, no doubt, the one in the Gospel of Saint Mark: "And when He was alone, they that were about Him

with the twelve asked of Him the parable. And He said unto them: Unto *you* it is given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God; but unto them that are *without,* all these things are done in parables; that seeing, they may see and *not* perceive, and hearing, they may hear and *not* understand, lest at any time they should be converted and their sins should be forgiven them." (Mark 4:10-12)

From these verses several conclusions can be drawn. There *was* a group (not large) that had private meetings with Jesus, and at these meetings He explained, in detail, the things that He had not explained to the multitude, and He told them that the privilege of understanding the 'mystery of the Kingdom of God' was given to *them,* but that the same privilege was denied to the masses. Fenton translates this phrase as 'the hidden meanings of the Kingdom of God', and the Diaglott translation reads: 'the secrets of the Kingdom of God'. It is evident that Jesus taught some things to the few that He would not teach to the many. He was very careful as to what He said and to whom He said it. There is no indication in the Bible that He ever changed His policy, and it is evident that the other writers of the New Testament followed His leadership. Why? Why were the teachings of the Great Teacher kept out of reach of those that seemed to need them the most?

Is this an isolated Scripture that might be misinterpreted? We read in another place: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls before swine lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matt. 7:6) And in this same book, we also read: "And the disciples came and said unto Him: why speakest Thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them: Because it is given unto *you* to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to *them* it is not given." (Matt. 13:10-11)

Disciples versus converts

There are other Scriptures along the same line. The word 'mystery' or 'mysteries' occurs twenty-seven times in the New Testament, and most of the applications have the same type of reference. There was an inner circle to which Jesus explained His teachings, but He did not give those teachings to the masses. Again we ask—why? Was He just instructing some followers that were to take up the work of teaching the masses after He was gone? Did he not tell them in the above Scripture that they were to "give not that which is holy unto dogs"? Were the Apostles to decide who were worthy to receive the Gospel and who were not? Were they to give the Gospel to some and refuse it to others? Would you want that responsibility?

Those who have studied the Bible have noted that not a single doctrine of the nominal church is clearly explained, and a lot of the words used have doubtful meanings. The question naturally arises as

to how one goes about getting into this group that seems to get something out of the Bible. The method is plainly pointed out in the Scriptures and will be given to you later. The path is not difficult and requires more common sense than anything else. But before we give you that answer, it will be necessary to go back to our quotation from Saint Mark and consider the last part of that lesson. That are certain types of people pointed out in the Bible that were just not able to understand spiritual things. Jesus and Paul both deal with these types and, of course, we still have the same class with us today; but even that group will have their 'day of salvation' in the 'shall be' time. Jesus pointed out one of these groups; Paul refers to another, and John, the third class.

Jesus indicates one of these types and refuses to impart to them any knowledge of the Kingdom, for it would, no doubt, do them more harm than good. This class is referred to in the last verse of our quotation from Saint Mark: "Lest at any time they should be converted." Jesus did not want 'converts'. Disciples—yes! Converts—no! The difference will be explained as we continue.

Another thing that He points out is that 'their sins might be forgiven', and that, apparently, was something that did not meet with His approval. Is this strange religion? Maybe not as strange as it seems.

Now why would it be such an awful thing for a convert to have his sins forgiven and he become a follower of Jesus? Jesus seemed to think it would not be a good thing, so maybe we should try to understand His reasoning. You know that this very theme is the major program of a lot of 'Christian' sects—'converts' and 'forgiveness of sins'. But man's methods are not always God's methods. This line of thought calls to mind some very direct statements of Jesus on this very subject. "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name; and in Thy Name cast out devils; and in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye that work iniquity!" (Matt. 7:21-23) The Diaglott translation is worth recording: "Not every one who says unto Me, Master, Master, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who performs the Will of that Father of Mine in the Heavens. Many will say to Me in that day, Master, Master, have we not *taught* in Thy Name; and in Thy Name expelled demons; and in Thy Name performed many wonders? And then I will plainly declare to them, I never approved of you. Depart from Me, you who practice iniquity!" And then there is another Scripture: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the

door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." (John 10:1) Jesus could use some very expressive words when the occasion demanded.

The Forgiveness of sin

One of these groups that Jesus never 'approved' was 'converts'. Now just what is wrong with converts? The Bible teaches that there is an approved method or way to approach God, and we have promised to give you that method in this series of articles; but first we want to examine some of the methods that are not approved. We are sure that none of our readers would want Jesus to call him 'a thief and a robber'. Now what is a 'convert'? Did you ever attend one of these 'Christian' meetings devoted to making 'converts'? Do you remember that one part of the 'warming up' process was to instil fear in the minds of as many people as possible? Do you know that this type of religion comes from the worship of the old pagan god, Moloch, and is no part of the Christian religion; and, thank God, never will be?

The convert is able, as is anyone else, to invoke the law of forgiveness of sin. Jesus seemed to think that the forgiveness of sins might not always be a good thing. Some sects think that it is the *only* purpose of religion.

Two men have fields of farm land. One man plants *wheat* and tends it and reaps a prize-winning crop. That wheat is *his* harvest, and to take any part of that wheat without the owner's knowledge and consent is stealing. "Thou shalt not steal." The other man sows *wild oats* and tends it and reaps a bumper crop. That is *his* harvest, and to take any part of those oats without the owner's knowledge and consent is stealing. "Thou shalt not steal."

We are not pawns whom two powerful gods—one good and the other bad—are trying to win as the spoils of victory. The life in us is the life of God, and we are here on this Earth to develop into Divine Beings. (II Pet. 1:4) We learn more by the mistakes that we make than by observing the mistakes of others, and to deprive one of the fruit of his mistakes before he has learned his lesson, is to steal that one's harvest, which causes him to have to sow and reap again. When one finds himself in a mess as a result of his wrong-doing and asks for help, it becomes the duty and privilege of any who have the Christ Spirit to help such an one in any way they can. There is no record of Jesus ever having helped anyone before He was *invited to do so.* It is one of the *Laws of the Path,* and we must all learn it at some time. The laws of the 'forgiveness of sin' can be used at the wrong time and cause more trouble than they cure.

It is evident in the Scriptures we have quoted from the seventh chapter of Matthew that Jesus foresaw the time when many people would preach in His Name and claim that they were casting out the devil and doing many good and wonderful works; yes, and claiming that they were representing God and preaching 'the Gospel'. Did you ever attempt to find out just how many different kinds of 'gospels' there are?

Eternal damnation—fact or fallacy?

This writer remembers a funeral that he attended as a child more than sixty years ago. It was the funeral of a young man and, according to the preacher, there was no question but what that young man was damned to eternal torture for all time to come. What awful crime had this boy committed? You would never guess. The boy (he was fifteen years old) had gone skating on Sunday and was drowned. For that awful 'crime' a fifteen year old boy was to spend eternity in 'hell'. Had that preacher known anything about the New Testament or the Christian religion, he would have known that there is not one single verse in the Bible that justifies transferring the Jewish Law of the Sabbath to the Christian first day of the week. But the real tragedy was that those poor simple farm folk believed him. Was he not the preacher? Had he not been ordained? Who were they to question a statement of the 'reverend'? In that day, such a message was called 'the Gospel', and the people who believed such things were called 'Christians'. "And then I will plainly declare to them, I never approved of you. Depart from Me, you who practice iniquity!"

Compare that Gospel with the one that the Angel gave the shepherds. "Behold I bring you *good tidings* of *great joy* which *shall be* to *all people.*" Thank God for that *'shall be'!* Even those poor deluded blind followers of blind leaders will yet learn the truth of the words of the Angel in the *day of Truth* which "shall be."

Yes, there was a reason that Jesus had no time for converts. When you are seeking the *Truth,* you may safely ignore those who teach this type of religion.

Perfect Love casteth out fear

There is another group that John points out, and while they are not named as a particular class, he does state certain facts that do call our attention to laws that many who call themselves Christians do violate. The Scripture referred to is I John 4:16-18. "God is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our Love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; *because as He is, so are we in this world.* There is no fear in Love; but perfect Love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment."

"God is Love . . . Love casteth out fear; because fear hath tor-

ment." Fear has no standing in the Presence of God any more than darkness has in the presence of light. Why? Because fear has torment. Would God become involved in anything that would bring fear or torment to any of His children? Can you imagine such a thing? It is often stated that God made hell for the devil and his angels. God is said to have created *all things*. But if God is Love; would He torture even the devil?

There are two different words in the Bible that are translated into the English word 'fear'. One means 'to have respect for', and the other means 'to be afraid of'. Could you respect a God who would send a fifteen year old boy to eternal damnation? Let us face facts—could *you* respect such a God?

The plain fact *is* that anyone who uses fear as a part of religion, or to gain control over people, even if they claim it is for a good purpose, has no standing in the Presence of God—for God and fear just do not mix.

In your search for Truth, you can ignore sects or groups or leaders —no matter what titles they might have—that use or teach fear. Did you ever hear one of this type preach a Gospel of *"Good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people?"* These people know nothing of the Christian Gospel. Here is another question. If the above quotation is the Christian Gospel (and the Angel said it was), did you ever hear a sermon preached on that subject by *anyone?*

These things are spiritually discerned

Now there is a third group about which Paul spoke, and Paul could speak very plainly when the occasion presented itself. There is no reason to misunderstand the Scripture to which we will refer. It is the first four verses of the third chapter of I Corinthians. Paul starts this letter somewhat differently than he does most of his letters to the churches. He refers to this group as "called to be saints." (I Cor. 1:2) His usual salutation is like the one that he uses to the Ephesians. "To the saints which are at Ephesus." Now the church at Corinth has been "called to be saints", but were not doing so well, and Paul in his blunt way tells them why.

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. *For ye are yet carnal;* for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and *divisions,* are ye not yet carnal and walk as men? *For while one saith, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"*

Now let us see if we can understand the trouble of which Paul is speaking. Here was a group of early Christians that had become divided. Over what? The question was simply—who was the best leader—Paul or Apollos. Some favored Paul and others Apollos. Some might have been called Paulites—the others Apolloites. It was the beginning of divisions in the church. It was the beginning of denominations. Now Paul says that where that condition exists, spirituality is gone and carnality is in control. He may even have been complimentary when he called them 'babes in Christ'. Carnality is not necessarily wickedness. The carnal man is one who is interested in laying up treasures on Earth, and in the previous chapter he is called 'the natural man'. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither *can* he know them because they are spiritually discerned." (I Cor. 2:14) The carnal or natural man (or materialist) is just not *able* to comprehend spiritual things. To him God must be a person with whom he can shake hands, and Heaven must be a place that can be measured with a yard-stick. These people are often very *fine* people. In fact, they usually are, and constitute most of the membership in the majority of church groups. If these are *good* people, what is wrong with them? Paul makes it very plain. They are followers of religious leaders. The Christian with spiritual discernment is not a follower of any man or religious leader. He will take the words of any teacher he may contact; study them; accept what, to him, seems Truth; reject what does not appeal to his common sense; but he never accepts, as Truth, anything just because it comes from one in whom he has confidence. The Christian *knows* what he knows and *why he knows it.*

Most people are fundamentally good

We have called your attention to three classes of people that are pointed out in the Bible as not being very far advanced insofar as Christian development is concerned. This does not, in any way, cast any reflection upon their moral integrity or standing as honest and very useful citizens, but none of the three classes are dependable teachers of Christianity. In all of these groups there is a tendency to divide the human race into 'good' and 'bad' people. In Mark 10: 17-18, we read: "One asked Him, good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, why callest thou Me good? There is none good but one, that is God." Now if Jesus would not admit to being good, where are you going to find your 'good' people?

There is an old bit of philosophy that goes something like this:

There is so much bad in the best of us,
And so much good in the worst of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us
To condemn the rest of us.

Yes, in the Christian religion there is more than meets the eye, and during the long centuries, it has been badly misrepresented, mistaught, and misunderstood. When it *is* understood, it is the most beautiful message ever written to the human race. Truly it is a message of *"good tidings* of *great joy* which *shall be* to *all people."*

Since we are now living in the beginning of the period of time spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, in which the knowledge of the Lord would cover the Earth as the waters cover the sea, it is not only easier to understand the teachings of Jesus, but we find that more people are asking more questions than they have in the past, and the questions indicate a higher type of thinking than they did a few years ago.

For a lot of people the day has gone when they would believe anything and everything that was told them just so long as it was orthodox. There is some Truth in all religions—more in some than in others, of course, and there are very many fine people in every religious group. These articles are not written with the idea of influencing you to change your religion, but to assist you in understanding some of the basic Truths in the Christian religion; and on *that* foundation you may erect whatever superstructure you desire.

In reading these articles, we ask that you keep an open mind and approach the subjects presented as a *seeker after Truth;* for there is no understanding of Truth by anyone else. Check all the material given with the 'still small voice' within your own being and ask your God to give you understanding, and you will be surprised at the things you will learn.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

Next issue: The Path to spiritual attainment : the three baptisms : the three religions : the three degrees of Christianity : Times and seasons.

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It is to be expected that a series of this nature, being of general interest to so many people, will raise many questions in the minds of our readers. In order that we may provide as clear an understanding as is possible of the many aspects of Biblical study, we invite your letters of comment or inquiry regarding any points on which you might desire enlightenment. Replies will be made in Question and Answer form or in the context of subsequent articles.

Please address your letters to Associate Editor, Hope,

P.O. Box 8, Chatham, Ontario, Canada. Thank you.

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

Adina was the only child of Manasseh Benjamin who, though an Israelite of the tribe of Judah, was a native of the Greco-Romano city of Alexandria. His ancestor was the learned David Esdras Manasseh, one of the Septuaginta appointed by Ptolemy Philadelphus in the year 277 B.C. to translate the Bible from the original Hebrew tongue into Greek. As a youth, Manasseh Benjamin had been sent to Jerusalem to be educated in the laws of Moses, so he resolved that his daughter should share the same privileges. Thus it was that Adina, after a tedious journey of seventeen days, arrived in Jerusalem and was kindly welcomed by friends of her father and found that every preparation had been made for her comfort annd happiness. Arriving there about three years before the crucifixion of Jesus, Adina became very much impressed with His teachings and kept her father informed of the many incidents which accompanied the ministry of Jesus. The following are parts of the last two letters which she wrote to her father in Alexandria.

"I deeply regret, my dearest father, the delays which have detained you so long from arriving at Jerusalem, but I trust that ere many days, the caravan for which you wait will reach Gaza, and that you will be enabled to resume your journey to the Holy City. . . . Favored, indeed, have I been to have been a dweller in Judea during this eventful period, and to have seen and heard these things which no other age of the world can parallel. But so far as one could know them who was not an eye-witness, you, dear father, have been faithfully informed of them through my letters. . . . Once more, my dear father, read carefully over the whole narrative from the first letter, and thus, with all the facts fresh in your mind, answer to yourself this inquiry:

'Was not this Man the Son of God? Was He not the very Christ —the divine and long-looked-for Messiah? Was He not that mighty Prophet which came into the world? If He were not, who is He? Who is He at whose birth the air was filled with Angels, over whose couch hung a celestial star; before whose feet the three wisest men of the world . . . bowed in adoration and worship as to a God?'

"I rejoice to see by your last letter that you may be expected to reach here the week after next. Oh, that you were here now, that you might be taken by John to see Jesus; for from what he says He will not long remain visible among us. Whither He goeth, or how He goeth away, no man can say. We are filled with expectation of some great event, which will conclude the brilliant and wonderful succession of marvels that attend His footsteps and presence on Earth."

"With emotions that nearly deprive me of the power to hold my pen, and with trembling fingers that make the words I write almost

illegible, I sit down to make known to you the extraordinary event which will mark this day in all future time as the most worthy to be noted among men.

"In my last, I informed you that Jesus, after His wonderful resurrection, which was declared to all men by infallible proofs, gathered once more His amazed and adoring disciples about Him and taught them, with more than mortal wisdom and eloquence, the great Truths appertaining to His Kingdom, which He now appointed them to extend throughout all the world.

"On the fortieth day, my dear father, early in the morning, He left the house of Mary and Lazarus, where He had sat up with us all night (for none of us thought of sleep within the sound of His heavenly voice), speaking to us of the glories of Heaven, and the excellency of heart and purity of life required of all who should enter it.

'Lord,' said Martha, as He went forth, 'whither goest Thou?'

'Come and see,' He answered. 'Whither I go ye shall know, and the way ye shall know; for where I am ye shall also be, and all those who believe in Me.'

'Lord,' said Mary, kneeling at His feet, 'return at noon and remain with us during the heat of the day.'

'Mary,' said Jesus, laying His hand gently upon her forehead, 'I am going to My Father's House! There thou shalt one day dwell with Me in mansions not made with hands. Follow Me, and thou shalt know the way thither! Through temptation I have first trodden it; through suffering; through death; and through resurrection from the dead. So also must thou and all who love Me follow Me. To My friends, the gate of the tomb opens into the world of life eternal.'

Thus speaking, He walked slowly onward toward the hill of Bethany, not far from the place where Lazarus was buried. He was followed—not only by Mary, Martha, Lazarus and John, my cousin Mary and myself, each of us expecting, from His words and manner, some new and great event to take place; but by all the disciples who had joined Him near the cemetery at the foot of the hill. There were at least five hundred persons in all—moving on with Him ere He reached the green hillside beyond the village; for all followed Him expecting to hear more glorious revelations from His lips of the life beyond this.

"He goes to the hill to pray,' said one of the disciples.

'Nay,' said Peter, 'He prays not since His resurrection as before. He hath no need of prayer for Himself, who has conquered sin, Satan, death, the grave and the world.'

'He goeth to show us some mighty miracle from the expression of power and majesty in His aspect,' said Thomas to me, gazing upon the

Lord with awe; for each moment, as He ascended the hill, His countenance grew more glorious with a certain God-like majesty, and shone like the face of Moses descending from Mount Sinai. We all hung back with adoring fear, and alone He proceeded onward, a wide space being left by us between ourselves and Him. Yet there was no terror in the glory which surrounded and shone out from Him; but rather a holy radiance that seemed to be the very light of holiness and peace.

'So looked He,' said John to us, 'when we beheld Him transfigured in the mount with Elias and Moses.'

The hill, which is not lofty, was soon surmounted by His sacred feet. He stood upon its apex alone. We kept back near the brow of the hill, fearing to approach Him, for His raiment shone now like the sun, while His countenance was as lightning. We shaded our eyes to behold Him. All was now expectation, and looking for some mighty event—what, we knew not. John drew nearest to Him, and upon his knees with clasped hands, looked toward Him earnestly, for he knew, as he afterward told us, what would take place; Jesus having informed him the night before. Joy and yet tears were on his face as he gazed, with blinded eyes, as one gazes on the noon-day sun, upon his Divine Master. It was a scene, dear father, impressive beyond expression. The hill-top was thronged with an expectant awe-stricken multitude which knew not whether to remain or fly from the glorious majesty of the presence of the Son of God. The blue sky spread out its illimitable concave above the hills without a cloud. At the foot of the eminence toward the holy city, slept the gardens of Gethsemane where Jesus loved to walk and where He was arrested. Jerusalem, with its towers, pinnacles, palaces, and gorgeous Temple, glittered in the distance; and Calvary, studded with fresh Roman crosses, stood out boldly in view in the transparent air. The tall cypresses which grew above the tomb of Joseph where He had lain, were also visible. Jesus seemed, for a moment, to survey these scenes of His suffering, of His ignominy and death, with the look of a divine conqueror. He then turned to His disciples and said:

'Ye have been with Me in My sorrows, and you shall now behold My glory and the reward which My Father doth give Me. Today I take leave of you and ascend to My Father and your Father. Remember all things which I have taught you concerning My Kingdom. Go forth and teach the glad tidings of salvation to all men, and baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and lo, I am with you always—even unto the end of the world.'

Thus speaking in a voice that thrilled every bosom with emotions indescribable, He extended His hands above their heads and blessed them, while we all fell upon our faces to the ground, also to receive His blessing.

He then lifted up His eyes to the calm blue depths of Heaven and said:

'And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was!'

As He spoke, we raised our faces from the ground and saw Him leaving the Earth, rising from the hill-top into the air with a slow and majestic ascension; His hands outspread over us beneath as if shedding down blessings upon us all. The loud burst of surprise which rose from five hundred voices at seeing Him soar away into the atmosphere was followed by a profound and awful silence as we watched Him rise and still rise—ascending and still ascending into the upper air—His whole form growing brighter and brighter as the distance widened between His feet and the Earth.

Upon our knees, in speechless amazement, we followed His ascent with our eyes, not a word being spoken by any soul; and hearts might have been heard beating in the intense expectation of the moment.

Then in the far-off height of Heaven, we beheld appear a bright cloud, no larger than a man's hand, but each instant it expanded and grew broader and brighter; and swift as the winged lightning, it descended through the firmament downward until we beheld it evolve itself into a glittering host of Angels which no man could number—countless as the stars of Heaven. As these shining legions descended, they parted into two bands, and sweeping along the air, met the ascending Son of God in the mid sky. The rushing of their ten thousand times ten thousand wings was heard like the sound of many waters. Surrounding Jesus like a shining cloud, they received Him into their midst and hid Him from our eyes amid the glories of their celestial splendor.

While we stood gazing up into the far skies, hoping, expecting, yet doubting if we should ever behold Him again, two bright stars seemed to be descending from the height of Heaven toward us. In a few seconds, we saw that they were Angels. Alighting on the same place Jesus had left, they said to the eleven:

'Why gaze ye up into Heaven, ye men of Galilee? This same Jesus whom ye have seen go into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have now seen Him ascend.' Thus speaking, they vanished out of our sight.

* * * * *

Oh, what a sublime spectacle! What human language can describe it? But one thing I have presented clearly to you, dear father, and that is the fact that Jesus has ascended into the Heaven of Heavens. Oh, amazing reality! Overwhelming truth! What—oh, what is Earth? What is Judea? What is man—that God is mindful of him— that

He should so have visited him. And when He has visited us—when His Divine Son, the brightness of the glory of the Father, has descended to Earth and assumed our nature, to reconcile us to God, and obtain an eternal life for us, how has He been received? Shunned for His voluntary poverty; despised for His humble human parentage; hated for His holiness; tried before tribunals for crimes unknown to Him; scourged and spit upon, mocked and buffeted, and crucified with thieves, as if His enemies would render His death as ignominious as it was capable of being made.

But behold the issue! See, when He had paid the debt of death for us, the change in all things. He awakens to life! He bursts the tomb! He walks forth from the sepulchre! Angels are His servants! After forty days on Earth, unfolding to His disciples the mysteries of His gospel and the splendor of His Kingdom, He ascends visibly to Heaven at mid-day from Bethany, in the sight of many hundreds, and is escorted by armies of Angels to the right hand of the majesty on high.

Such, my dear father, is the appropriate crowning event of the extraordinary life of Jesus, both Lord and Christ. His ascent from this Earth into the Heaven of Heavens is not only proof that He came from God, but that God is well pleased with all that He has done in the flesh. . . . Thus did He truly say: 'The way I go ye shall know!'

But I cannot write all I would say to you, dearest father. . . . Hesitate not to accept Him; for He is the end of Moses, and of the Law, and of the Prophets, the very Shiloh who should come and restore all things, to whom be glory, power, dominion, majesty and excellency forevermore."

Your loving daughter,
ADINA

These excerpts are from THE PRINCE OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID by Rev. Prof. J. H. Ingraham.

OUR GENTLE MASTER

Our gentle Master comes to us in Light,
Clad with the splendid sandals of the Sun,
Upon magnetic wave-lengths of such might—
That in their tranquil eddy currents run
The pulses of the planet. In His eyes
The efflorescence of Eternity!
His voice—a burst of music! From His face
That golden flowering expands—
Drawing us up to hold us in the hands
Of Radiance and Grace—
With touch relaxed and wise;
And we are healed and free,
And turn within to sing—
Knowing ourselves to be
Cup-Bearers of the King.

LINDA PANKRATZ

ONE GOD — ONE TRUTH

"And now at last a place is found where the Truth might abide in all its glory, and this place is the heart of mankind."

Buddha

"And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

Jesus

In previous issues of this magazine, we have printed various stories concerning the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of the Buddhist Faith, and as many requests have been made for parallelisms between the teachings of Buddha and the Master Jesus, we shall attempt to present a few of these comparative Truths to our readers. This is consistent with our policy of attempting to place before the public conclusive proof that all religions are one in essence, but differ slightly in their presentation.

As we all know, it was during the lovely month of May that the Beloved Master Jesus made His ascension into the Heart of the Father; and as it was also during the month of May that the Lord Buddha "entered the ranks of the Triumphant Ones who shall not taste of death again", we welcome this opportunity of bringing to you Their messages of love and inspiration for your healing and illumination.

The Truth never changes. It is only the evolving consciousness of the individual, which is enabled to discern greater or lesser detail in that Truth, which seems to indicate a conflict. The capacity to perceive the True Nature of God, His Universe and His Creation, is developed through the consecrated dedication of the life energy to such perception. Those individuals who have so consecrated their lives to a detailed, honest, persistent and consecutive search for Truth *will* come upon it. Some have graduated from the realm of the *seekers*—as have the Master Jesus and the Lord Buddha—and have become the authority —the Law—themselves. By merit, They are invested with the right to dispense Truth to those interested in finding it. It is to these Beings that mankind must look if they desire and applicable knowledge of the Laws of Universal Life and Progress and the way and means by which man may hasten his evolution through entering into the understanding and application of these Laws.

To this day, devoted pilgrims wend their way toward the plateau on the northern slope of the Himalayas to share in the great blessing and sweet anointing conferred upon them by the beautiful Spirit of the Buddha. This holy ceremony takes place each year in May, the month in which Buddha was born, attained His Buddha-hood, and departed from the body. It is known as the *Wesak Festival.*

"Truth is within ourselves; it takes no rise
From outward things, whate'er you may believe,
There is an inmost center in us all
Where Truth abides in fullness; and around,
Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in—
This perfect clear perception which is Truth.
A baffling and prevailing carnal mesh
Binds it and makes all error; and to *know*
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendor may escape,
Than in effecting entry for a light
Supposed to be without."

So taught the Lord Buddha as He went among His fellowmen teaching the Way; the Truth; and the Light. "Surrender," He said, "the grasping disposition of selfishness and you will attain to that calm state of mind which conveys perfect peace, goodness, and wisdom!"

"Do not deceive; do not despise
Each other anywhere.
Do not be angry; nor should ye
Secret resentment bear;
For as a mother risks her life
And watches o'er her child;
So boundless be your love to all—
So tender, kind, and mild."

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you!" (John 13:34)

* * * * *

"Whosoever comprehendeth the Truth will see the Blessed One, for the Truth has been preached by the Blessed One." (G.B. 54:10)

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the Truth. Every one that is of the Truth heareth my voice." (John 18:37)

* * * * *

"Self has disappeared and Truth has taken its abode in me. This body of mine is Gotama's and it will be dissolved in time, and after its dissolution, no one, neither God nor man, will see Gotama again. But the Truth remains. The Buddha will not die; the Buddha will continue to live in the holy body of the Law." (G.B. 54:3)

"A little while and ye shall not see me; and again a little while and ye shall see me, because I go unto the Father. These things I have spoken unto you that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:16 & 33)

"Happy are they that have found deliverance." (G.B. 6:20)

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

* * * * *

"The Buddhas are beings whose words cannot fail; there is no departure from Truth in their speech." (G.B. 7:18)

"Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35)

* * * * *

"Though a person be ornamented with jewels, the heart may not have conquered the senses. The outward form does not constitute religion or affect the mind. Thus the body of a samana (ascetic) may wear an ascetic's garb, while his mind is immersed in worldliness. A man that dwells in lovely woods and yet covets worldly vanities, is a worldling, while the man in worldly garments may let the heart soar to heavenly thoughts." (G.B. 18:8-9)

"Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh *is* flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit *is* Spirit." (John 3:5-6)

* * * * *

"If after all, you must speak with her, let it be with a pure heart and think to yourself: 'I, as a samana, will live in this sinful world as the spotless leaf of the lotus, unsoiled by the mud in which it grows.' The power of lust is great with men, and it is to be feared withal; take then the bow of earnest perseverance and the sharp arrow point of wisdom. Cover your heads with the helmet of right thoughts, and fight with fixed resolve against the five desires. Better far with red hot irons bore out both your eyes than encourage in yourself sensual thoughts." (G.B. 33:6-12)

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matt. 5:27-29)

* * * * *

"Among men there is no one who is not blamed. People blame

him who eats in silence and him who speaks. They also blame the man who preaches the middle path." (G.B. 39:7)

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He hath a devil.' The Son of man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Behold a man gluttonous and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." (Matt. 11:18-19)

* * * * *

"I myself, having reached the other shore, help others to cross the stream; I myself, having attained salvation, am a saviour of others; being comforted, I comfort others and lead them to the place of refuge. I shall fill with joy all the beings whose limbs languish; I shall give happiness to those who are dying from distress; I shall extend to them succor and deliverance." (G.B. 54:6-7)

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29)

* * * * *

"A treasure that is laid up in a deep pit profits nothing and may easily be lost. The real treasure that is laid up through charity, and piety, temperance, self-control, or deeds of merit, is hid secure and cannot pass away. It is never gained by despoiling or wronging others, and no thief can steal it. A man, when he dies, must leave the fleeting wealth of this world, but this treasure of virtuous acts, he takes with him. Let the wise do good deeds; they are a treasure that can never be lost." (G.B. 59:12)

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt 6:19-21)

* * * * *

"Reading the Vedas, making offerings to the priests, or sacrifices to the Gods, self-mortification by heat or cold, and many such penances performed for the sake of immortality—these do not cleanse the man who is not free from delusion." (G.B. 16:7)

"Moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily, I say unto you—they shall have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head and wash thy face that thou

appear not unto men to fast, but unto the Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." (Matt. 6:16-18)

* * * * *

"And the Tathagata's body appeared shining like a flame, and he was beautiful above all expression." (G.B. 95:21)

"And after six days, Jesus taketh with Him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on Earth can white them." (Mark 9:2-3)

Space does not permit the inclusion of further comparisons of this nature, but we shall include further quotations in forthcoming issues for the interest of our readers. In examining these writings of the great Lord Buddha, and realizing that these were taught to the multitudes nearly six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, it must, of necessity, impress upon us the fact that there is but *one* Truth—and this Truth—the Law of the *one* God that has been co-existent with life on this planet and all planets of the universe since Creation began.

In all endeavors to raise mankind again to his natural God-free estate, the safest, surest, and most efficacious progress is made on the Path recommended by the Lord Buddha—the Middle Way. Through the ages, mankind has swung to both extremes of either too much absorption in self or absolute neglect of self in a Cause. Many prefer to contemplate Perfection in the abstract sense, but are not willing to concentrate their personal energies to drawing forth the perfection for the blessings of mankind. How many lifestreams who were fortunate enough to live at the time of Jesus' ministry *did not* recognize their individual capacity to assist Him to greater efficacy in His service! Looking back through the glamorous folds of time, these same consciousnesses affirm with feeling that *if* they *had* been there, they would have protected, assisted, supplied and promoted His endeavors. *Yet we are again in such an auspicious moment of Opportunity.* Let the wise be alert to the present for '*practical* works make further knowledge available.'

If we look about us, we shall find words of Wisdom and Light which shine through the written page to the comprehending one to the effect that *all* good men and women have seen and shared the *One Truth* and dressed it according to the style of the day.

The preceding comparative statements are taken from "The Gospel of Buddha" by Paul Carus, and from the King James version of the Holy Bible.

MOTHERS' DAY AND WHITSUNTIDE

Mothers' Day! On the anniversary of the day when the mankind of Earth gives recognition to the service that mothers have rendered the evolution of the souls of men, surely there is not a living being on the Earth who can observe this occasion without a feeling of deep gratitude and reverence. Let us contemplate the marvelous opportunity that has been afforded each one presently incarnated upon the planet by the individual who became the 'open door' through which the soul might receive the necessary physical garment required for it to pursue its individual journey toward self-mastery and perfection. Let us, individually, call forth all the blessings of life upon ALL mothers—wherever they may be, for their service in providing bodies for everyone in embodiment today. Let us also bless all the mothers who have given *us* embodiment from the beginning of our incarnations.

Also, as we give honor and loving gratitude to the Mothers of the human race, let us not forget the Great God Mother of our Universe Who, together with God, the Father, represent our Cosmic Parents to Whom we may turn at any moment for the comfort, assistance, and ever-present loving counsel which They alone can give us.

When the Father of our Universe first drew forth the Spirit Sparks of our present humanity, He impressed the Divine Pattern, or Archetype, of every human being into the substance of the Great Cosmic Mother, within Whose body dwells the pre-destined perfect Christ Pattern of every man, woman and child who belongs to our race. This Divine Pattern, God Ego, or Christ Self, is the Immaculate Concept or Thought of God, and one day the personal self of every lifestream will connect with this Higher Self, blend with it, and finally, through the Cosmic assistance of the God Mother, experience the Second, or Spiritual Birth, as Jesus, the Gautama Buddha, and many other Liberated Beings have done.

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The early Greeks called the Feminine Aspect of Divinity, Vesta, Goddess of the hearth and home. The Chinese have embodied Her merciful Nature in the beautiful Kwan Yin, and to the Christian Church, the lovely Mary, Mother of Jesus, is an ever-present reminder of the God Mother. By whatever name She is called, remember that She is still our Mother in the greatest and most beautiful outpouring of Loving Kindness that our souls will ever experience, and within Her Cosmic Heart She holds for us the Divine Image of the perfect man or woman we shall one day become. As the Earthly mother desires only the best for her children, we can, perhaps, conceive the solicitude, the gentle compassionate care in which our Spiritual Nature is guarded,